Disgraced Worksheet

1. Describe the *stasis* in the play: where, when, who, what, etc. in a paragraph.

The play begins with Amir and his wife Emily in their home. Emily is a painter and she is painting Amir to imitate a well known painting of a moore. They discuss art, and their careers, both of them seemingly happy.

2. What is the *intrusion*?

The intrusion is when Abe is introduced and asks Amir to defend a muslim who is on trial for terrorism.

3. What is the *unique factor*?

The unique factor is that this is the time that Amir is thinking he’s going to be getting a promotion and the trial for terrorism is going on.

4. What is the *dramatic question* that should be answered by the end of the play?

Will Amir come to terms with his background? Will this trial and/or his ego mess up the opportunities he had in his work?

5. List some of the *themes* of the play.

Islam, religion, racial profiling, careers, dreams, identity, and loyalty

6. What do the principal characters *want* and what are some *obstacles* that stand in the way of them getting what they want?

Amir doesn’t want to be seen like the stereotypical version of where he’s from and his religion, but he also doesn’t want to be completely unloyal either.

7. After having seen the Town and Gown production of the play write a paragraph each on the following:

a. overall quality of the production, realizing that it is not a fully mounted (financially supported) work on the season of Town and Gown.

Although I do not have anything to gauge my response on because I have not seen any other production at the Town and Gown, I think this production was very well executed for a show that was not financially supported in the same way others are. I didn’t see much of a difference in the quality of the show compared to high school productions that I see.

b. comment on the acting and focus on your favorite role and it’s execution.

The acting was good. Although some lines did slip, I believe these people were in touch with the character they were playing. The most interesting character to me was Emily because after reading her bio I saw that she had went to NYU for theatre and performing arts. I could tell that she knew what she was doing especially with the chemistry between certain characters, you would almost believe that the character she played was actually her. She performed the uncomfortable parts with grace, and I was impressed with her tears and how easily they came in the times of drama. I was also impressed by the actors that didn’t have as much experience as her, but still executed their roles swiftly. For example, the person who played Abe was a complete stranger to theatre before this show and his monologue near the end was believable and tear jerking.

c. evaluate the directing focusing on the casting of the roles, stage movements, set design, costume design, lighting design, and sound design for the show.

The casting of the roles seems to be the most important part of this show. The roles were race specific, and I believe they did a good job in the costuming especially with Amir’s shirts. At the end when it was just the undershirt that he wore it represented the dead end he had hit. The lighting was interesting because I believe it was thought out extensively. The way that the lights would fade to stage right to stage left at certain points really directed the scene and made sure the audience knew what to focus on. The only sound I can recall was the cellphone.

d. any unique factors about the production that stand out.

I loved the use of the exterior door and the intercom to the apartment. It gave the feeling that they actually were in an apartment. The door also helped out with the more dramatic scenes when the characters would exit.